Parallel Railway network

† 456. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are making efforts to obtain huge amount from World Bank in order to construct a parallel railway network with that of roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rail project in A.P. with ADB loan

457. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the rail projects in Andhra Pradesh to be taken up with the Asian Development Bank Loan;

(b) by when the work of the projects would be taken up; and

(c) the target for completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of US $ 313.6 million to finance the Rail Sector Improvement Project. Currently, the project of doubling of Gooty-Pullampet rail link in Andhra Pradesh has been appraised by ADB . for funding under this loan.

(b) The work on the project has already been taken up.

(c) The project is likely to be completed in March 2008.

Contractor's men in pantry cars

458. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of-RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry treat the contractor's men in Railway 'pantry cars' as passengers on duty; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what is the number of such contractor's and its men in Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) About 184 pairs of trains on Indian Railways are running with pantry car services managed by private licensees who engage their staff on their own. The details of men employed by the private licensees are not maintained by the Railways.

(b) Does not arise.

Recommendations of Passengers Amenities Committee

459. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the major recommendations of the last Passenger Amenities Committee;

(b) whether Railways have accepted any of the proposals made by the Committee; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (c) The important observations/suggestions made by the Passenger Amenities Committee relate to removal of encroachments from railway land and generation of revenue from surplus land, prevention of entry of unauthorised vendors in moving trains, spending of funds for passenger amenities on facilities like drinking water, seating arrangements, maintenance of waiting halls, toilets, lights, fans etc. and not on major construction works, monitoring the quality of meals etc. The suggestions/observations of the Committee are kept in view while formulating guidelines and implementation.

Light weight coaches

460. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have entered into a contract with the foreign company for the manufacture of light weight coaches for Rajdhani, Shatabdi and some selected superfast trains of the Indian Railways;